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The Arts

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the world premiere performance of Stevens' "Concerto for Viola and Orchestra"; First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, 1008 11th St.; Sunday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. ($4 at the door, $3 advance sales by calling 393-8258).

Handel's 'Messiah'—Westwood United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Steve Coker, guest conductor; 10497 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Sunday, Dec. 5, 3 p.m. ($3.50, $2 for students and seniors).

Variety Christmas Program—Readings, stories and vocal music; theater at the Los Angeles Temple Visitors Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10777 Santa Monica Blvd.; Sunday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. (free).

Fine Arts Quartet—Selections from baroque to blues, classical to ragtime; Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd.; Sunday, Dec. 5, 1:30 to 3 p.m. (free).

Art Exhibit—Watercolors and acrylics by Charles Lewis, presented by Pacific Palisades Art Assn.; gallery of Pacific Palisades Library, 861 Alma Real Drive; reception Sunday, Dec. 5, 2 to 4 p.m. (free).

Music of Benjamin Britten—St. Nicholas Cantata, with Thomas Foster conducting the All Saints' and the California Boys' Choirs, accompanied by an orchestra of strings, piano, organ and percussion, and the Missa Brevis, with the California Boys' Choir performing the composition for boys' voices and organ, written for the Choristers of Westminster Cathedral in London, in 1959; All Saints' Episcopal Church, 504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills; Monday, Dec. 6, 8:15 p.m. (suggested donation $5).

Reading by Joseph Hansen—Poet and novelist, author of "Dave Brandstetter" mystery series, reading new poems and selections from his new novel, "Job's Year"; Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., Santa Monica; Monday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. (free).

Patterns of Paradise—Rare decorative bark cloths and related objects in wood, stone and ceramics from islands of the South Pacific, accompanied by a catalog, co-written by Dr. John Terrell and research specialist Anne W. Leonard, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; UCLA Frederick Gallery; opens Tuesday, Dec. 7, continues through Sunday, Jan. 30; gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Monday. UCLA Art Council docents give gallery talks daily at 1 and 2 p.m. (Admission free, parking $2).

The Works of Chaim Potok—Review by Mildred Simon, at a meeting of Hillel Chapter of the American Red Magen David; Columbia Savings and Loan, 3021 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica; Tuesday, Dec. 7, 12:30 p.m. ($1).

Black Folk Art in America: 1930-1980—National touring exhibition that originated at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; Craft and Folk Art Museum, 5814 Wilshire Blvd.; from Wednesday, Dec. 8, through Feb. 6, open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, to 8 p.m. on Friday; docent tours available on Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. (free).

'Midsummer Night's Dream'—Santa Monica College Little Theatre, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica; Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10 and 11, 17 and 18, 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12, 18 and 19, 2:30 p.m. ($3.50 general admission, $3 off-campus students and senior citizens, $2.50 Santa Monica College students).

Poetry Reading—Richard Meltzer and David Smith reading from their own works; Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center, Old Venice City Hall, 681 Venice Blvd.; Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. ($2).

Festival of Holiday Music—Presented by Concert Opera in honor of Pacific Palisades senior citizens; Aldergate House, 905 Haverford Ave., Pacific Palisades; Thursday, Dec. 16, 1:45 p.m. (free).

Christmas Candlelight Concert—Paulist Boy Choristers, with orchestra, conducted by Jon Wattenbarger, Jane Wyatt as special guest narrator; St. Paul the Apostle Church, 10750 Ohio Ave.; Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. ($5 for adults, $3 for children).

Mexican Folk Arts—Films on Mexican folk art by Judith Bronowski, "Marcellos Ramos—The Firework Maker's Art" and "Sabina Sanchez—The Art of Embroidery" at a meeting of Women in Design; Pacific Design Center, 8786 Melrose Ave., Conference Center, second floor; 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30 ($3 for members and students with identification, $5 for non-members).

Perspectives From Yugoslavia—A panel discussion of scholars and students with audience participation, led by Zella Brown; UCLA International Student Center, 1023 Hilgard Ave.; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2 (free).

'Stage Door'—Opening night of the American comedy by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman, first play of the season for the drama department of Crossroads School, directed by Peter Lempert; 1714 21st St., Santa Monica; performances at 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, and at 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, Dec. 10 (Tickets $5, $3 for students and senior citizens, $12 for season tickets for three shows).

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SPORT: Basketball

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landscaped the grounds. A park ranger was hired in August to enforce regulations. Those opposed to the city's decision said the ranger program was never given a chance to work.

On Monday night, the five councilmen heard testimony from about 30 residents, equally divided on the issue.

"My living room and bedroom windows face the basketball courts and as the warmer months increased thelevel of noise from the basketball courts became so loud it was something I had never experienced before," said one resident who lives across Buckingham Parkway.

Donald Day, a nearby resident, said that removing the baskets is not the answer."If the problem is noise, Culver City has people who can solve noise problems, if it's parking there are people to address the parking problem," he said.

'Problems Not Unique'

Paul Jacobs, the only councilman to vote against the removal, said, "The problems are not unique to Fox Hills Park and have little, if anything, to do with basketball courts."

He said it was a mistake to use a poll of only Fox Hills residents to justify the removal of the court from a city-owned park.

"All of us in the city enjoy and use all of our parks," he said. "The users are always in the minority. The city has to go beyond numbers to provide opportunities for all."

Councilman Richard Alexander said the park was too small to serve all the people in Culver City. "The park is too small to serve all the people in the Fox Hills. The intent was not to exclude people from outside but to make it inconvenient for them to use the park," he said.

Alexander added that Fox Hills Park is unique because noise tends to magnify and reverberate more off the walls of the buildings.

"It was not anticipated the buildings and the prevailing sea breeze would blow the noise across the street. I don't think this is a people problem as much as it is a physics problem," he said.

But the city's Human Services and Parks Commission, which held lengthy hearings on the matter last year, concluded that the problem was one of human relations, not noise, said the Rev. Daniel Barrett, commission chairman at the time. Despite the commission's conclusion, the council voted to remove the hoops.

'A Wrenching Experience'

"We have had an awfully wrenching experience in the city over this decision," Barrett said.

The commission reported to the council that the complaints could be handled by strengthening existing regulations.

Some residents have accused the property owners of racism because, they say, the owners want to prevent outsiders—specifically, blacks from Inglewood, Baldwin Hills and the Crenshaw area—from using the facilities.

The report stated: "The common theme . . . is that these problems taken by themselves are not unlike the problems experienced at other parks. The one thing that is different about Fox Hills is the high number of blacks who use the park. At any given time, the ratio of blacks to whites in the park is at minimum 50-50 and usually 60-40 or 70-30. It is safe to say that the white population in the park is usually a minority."

Since then the city tightened enforcement of parking, safety and noise regulations, but complaints continued.

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